

## SOME TALES OF GOLD HUNTERS

### Extraction of Metal More Difficult Than Its Finding.

The difficulty of the gold hunter in Alaska is not so much the finding of gold deposits, as in the extraction of the gold when found, the chief obstacle being the perpetually frozen ground encountered by the placer miner, says the Philadelphia Record.

According to the report issued by the United States geological survey, it is common practice to use steam to thaw out the frozen ground in drift work.

This is accomplished by means of hollow steel "points," from five to ten feet long, which are set up on the ground and steam or hot water turned on. These points are gradually driven into the soil a distance of four or five feet, in some cases more, and are usually operated in batteries on about three-foot centers.

During the night shift, men are engaged in thawing sufficient gravel for the men to work during the day. The points are driven in with a mallet, as the soil is gradually thawed and are left in the bank from ten to fourteen hours. Each point thaws a block about thirty-six inches in diameter, that is about eighteen inches on all sides. It requires a little more than one boiler horse power to supply steam for a single point. Wood is used exclusively for fuel, notwithstanding it costs \$12 a cord.

### Peace Overtures.

There was blood in the eyes of the two suburban housewives as they glared daggers at one another over the whitewashed fence.

"As for you," hissed the one in the red knit jacket. "I don't know what I could say that would be sufficiently severe. I hate you!"

"And you," retorted the one in the blue shawl, "are really not worth wasting breath over. So there!"

There was a painful pause and then the one in the knit jacket continued: "I would say a great deal more were it not for your sweet little baby."

"Do—do you really think he is sweet?"

"I do, and I am not backward about saying it, although I despise his mother. He is the prettiest little boy in twenty blocks."

"Then—then let's make up. Neighbors shouldn't be enemies. I'll hand you a dish of stewed prunes over the fences."

Then they kissed.

### Gold Piece Turns to Nickel.

In a street car, in Cleveland, the other day a young man suddenly stopped and picked up something from the floor. After looking at it a moment he asked, in a loud voice, "Has anybody lost a five-dollar gold piece?" Instantly a solemn man at the front end of the car rose and walking back to the young chap, said: "Yes, I have lost a five-dollar gold piece," and held out his hand. "Well," said the young man, "here's 5 cents I just picked up toward it."

### Millionaire's New Investments.

Henry Phipps, the Pittsburg millionaire, has been buying a lot of Manhattan island real estate and no one seems to know just what he means to do with it. It is taken for granted, however, that a good deal of the property will be devoted to his favorite philanthropy of building model tenement houses.

### Mistake in the Bill.

A gentleman who recently returned from a tour in Spain tells this story: He left Seville on foot, after a stay of a week, and was twenty miles away, when he was overtaken by the landlord of the hotel where he had stopped. The innkeeper rode alongside of his guest for nearly an hour before he found courage to make known his business.

"If the senor and God pleases," he began, apologetically, "I made a mistake in his bill yesterday."

"How?" I inquired.

"I forgot to make a charge for his candles to light him to bed!"

"But it was moonlight, and I had no candles."

"Then, senor, with the help of God, I forgot to charge you with moonlight."

The charge amounted to two cents in American money, and he had hired an ass and ridden twenty miles to collect it. I was amused and astonished. Then I accused him of being a robber, and offered him a cent to settle the bill. He worked up a beautiful smile and held out his hand.

"I will take it with thanks, senor," he said, "and God will bless you for an honest man!"

### He was Hogging the Dog.

Cummins, of Martin of Rochester, Vt., had a serious impediment in his speech, and had much difficulty in getting his vocal organs into a condition to say anything without first going through such facial contortions as to cause amusement among the lookers-on. When a boy he had a dog that he prized highly, and which, like Cummins, was always ready for fun. This dog was his inseparable companion about the farm.

Capt. Eb Martin, the father of Cummins, was a thrifty farmer, who felt a laudable pride in his fine horses, cattle and hogs and other products of his farm. One day he discovered Cummins, the dog and a fine porker in suspicious juxtaposition, amid furious yellings, barking and squealings, and the father roared out: "Cummins! Cummins! Stop hogging that hog!" And Cummins yelled back: "I a-a-a-l-a't d-d-dog-doggin' t-th-the h-ho-hog. I'm h-ho-hog-hoggin' t-th-the d-do-dog."

### Equally an Indication.

The young woman at the church social had declared her ability to read the characters of persons by examining lead pencils they had sharpened.

To put this claim to the test the young men went into another room and sent out their pencils, one at a time, for her inspection.

She had made a number of surprisingly successful guesses, when one lead pencil was brought to her that had been neatly pointed in a pencil sharpener.

"That's easy," she said. "He's a man of secretive and suspicious disposition and a good deal of a shirk when it comes to working."

Which also proved to be a center shot.

### Musician at White House.

Miss Emily Carew, a sister of Mrs. Roosevelt, is visiting the white house. She is an artist as well as a musician, and spends much time in Italy and Switzerland. She will superintend the musical education of Miss Ethel Roosevelt, who is the one musical member of the Roosevelt family.

### Strictly Feminine.

"I just met that charming Mrs. Flasher."

"You don't say, Belle? And how did she look?"

"As pretty as ever. I kissed her twice and inquired about her baby."

"My! And how was she dressed?"

"Well, er—rather plain. Come to think of it, her set of furs had a very antique appearance."

"Indeed?"

"Yes, and her hat must have been done over for two or three winters. And her shoes! Gracious, you never saw such ridiculous heels in your life! I declare, it is a wonder her husband is not ashamed to walk along the street with her."

### Simply an Act of Justice.

The chiefs of the party had indulged in one of their harmony dinners, and the editor of the Daily Bread was looking over the account of the affair that had been turned in by the reporter.

"There was a lot of speeches made, wasn't there?" he asked.

"Yes, sir," answered the reporter.

"Was Col. Gore's speech the only good one?"

"O, no; not at all."

"Then why have you reported his talk in full and given only a brief synopsis of the others?"

"For the reason that when it came his turn to speak the banqueters were too far gone to be able to understand it, and I thought they ought to have a chance to see what it was."

### Rest for the Worker.

The incessant throbbing of a human heart for a lifetime is a matter of wonder. The heart rests between each throb. To be sure, the rest only lasts for a fraction of a second. But it does really "come to a standstill," just as the piston of the locomotive of the "Empire Express" comes to a dead stand at the end of each stroke. On the principle that sixty seconds make a minute, etc., it will be seen that the heart may get rest. It is claimed that the brain learns to imitate the heart, and that a section of the brain of a busy intellectual man will sleep while the other parts of the brain work. By "changing off" some rest is secured by the most laborious toiler. This renders insomnia less dangerous.

### First Elevator on Record.

In the "Greville Memoirs" (Genoa, March 18, 1830, evening) there is a reference to the king and queen, who, "for the comfort of their bodies had a machine made like a car, which is drawn up by a chain from the bottom to the top of the house; it holds about six people, who can be at pleasure elevated to any story and at each landing place there is a contrivance to let them in and out."

Is this the first mention of anything approaching our modern "lift"?—Notes and Queries.

### Sheriff Had Fine Record.

Benjamin K. Thorn, a native of New York, nephew of United States Senator T. C. Platt, age 75, and classed as the most fearless sheriff in California, died recently. As sheriff of Calaveras county he was leader in the most famous man hunts in the state's history. No chance was to desperate for him to take and he too, many desperate chances in his fifty years of service.

### Worn-Out Billiard Balls.

In the billiard room a dozen tables were in full blast, and through the hum of conversation the click of the ivory balls came sharp and clear.

"What becomes of your worn-out balls?" said an idler.

"Well," the man at the desk replied, "when a ball is only a little off, it is sent to the factory to be trued up. We get balls trued up until they become too small for use. Then we sell them at so much per ounce."

"After their sale they are carved into various small trinkets, but in the main they are made into dice. Of the forty or fifty balls rolling and clicking busily here this evening, it is safe to say that 90 per cent of them a few years hence will be working just as hard in the form of dice."

### American Millions for Gems.

American imports of gems for the year drawing to a close will exceed in value \$37,000,000. Nothing like these figures has ever been known before. Last year's imports were \$11,000,000 behind them. In 1890 the entire product of the jewelry factories of this country fell \$3,000,000 short of the value of this year's importations. Amazing orders for precious stones are placed in the middle west, showing that not all the great corn crops are turning into telephones and trolley stocks. Diamonds are purchased surprisingly by people of moderate means. The prevailing love for things that glitter has at least this justification in thrift: It preserves the reasonable assurance that dollars put into gems may be found again. The interest may be lost, but the principal is in form for ready realization.—New York World.

### The Supreme Test.

Senator Foraker at a banquet touched upon Niagara. "There are thousands of odd stories about Niagara," he said. "Thousands of people, being disappointed when they first see the falls, vent the queerest remarks in their depressed mood."

"There was a Scot who visited Niagara in the autumn. He had come thousands of miles to worship and I suppose he expected to see too much. At any rate, Niagara disappointed him. He stood and looked at it in silence."

"But his companion was pleased. 'Ah,' he exclaimed, 'how grand, how majestic, how divinely beautiful it is!'"

"The Scot only grunted. 'Hoot, mon,' said he, 'we mun try hoo it mixes wi' whusky.'"

### Diamonds Are in Demand.

Plentiful sales are the rule in the diamond market, the transactions being in all cases large, and good business prevails generally. This applies equally to the other diamond markets as far as can be learned here. All sizes and qualities of diamonds seem to be in demand, especially melee, which easily finds buyers at high prices, the advance continuing steadily.—Amsterdam correspondence in Jeweler's Circular Weekly.

### Jewish Boy Breaks Record.

Anthony de Rothschild, youngest son of Leopold de Rothschild, is head boy at Harrow school, England. This is the first time this distinction has fallen to a Jewish lad who has not conformed to the ordinary religious exercises of the school.